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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02895 262052Z

12
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-04 OFA-01 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 CG-00 DOTE-00

/084 W

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R 262029Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8532
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS; TD, VE, PLOS, PBOR
SUBJECT: TRINIDAD & VENEZUELA HOLD PRELIMINARY TALKS

REF: POS A-58

1. DELEGATIONS FROM TRINIDAD AND VENEZUELA HELD TWO DAYS OF PRELIMINARY TALKS IN PORT OF SPAIN NOVEMBER 17 AND 18 ON BILATERAL PROBLEMS RELATED PRIMARILY TO THE GULF OF PARIA. THE OBJECT OF THE MEETING WAS TO REVIEW THE QUESTIONS AT ISSUE AND PREPARE A PROGRAM FOR STUDY AND FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. IN ADDITION TO SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS ON THE FISHING PROBLEMS, THE DELEGATIONS ALSO DEALT WITH THE CONSERVATION OF LIVING RESOURCES IN THE GULF OF PARIA, A FURTHER DELIMITATION OF THE SUBMARINE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, COOPERATION IN MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, POLUTION CONTROL, AND CUSTOMS, FISCAL, AND SECURITY MATTERS. THE DELEGATIONS WILL MEET AGAIN ON DECEMBER
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15 IN CARACAS TO BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE

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RULES AND
LAWS GOVERNING FISHING IN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS
OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

2. THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WAS LED BY DR. ISIDRO MORALES PAUL, HEAD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CARIBBEAN DIVISION, GENERAL OF MARITIME TRANSPORT AND TRANSIT OF THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS. TRINIDAD WAS REPRESENTED BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HEAD OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIVISION IN THE MINISTRY AND THE COMMANDER OF THE T&T COAST GUARD.

3. COMMENT: THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE THE FIRST SUBSTANTIAL EXCHANGES TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN TRINIDAD AND VENEZUELA SINCE PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS CHARGED THAT VENEZUELA WAS ATTEMPTING TO "RECOLONIZE" THE CARIBBEAN EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE MEMBERS OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WENT TO SOME LENGTHS IN PUBLIC TO SMOOTH OVER THE TROUBLED WATERS WITHOUT TAKING DIRECT ISSUE WITH DR. WILLIAMS. THEY EITHER IGNORED OR DEFLECTED DIRECT QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE "RECOLONIZATION" CHARGES AND ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE THE TRINIDADIANS ABOUT VENEZUELAN AMBITIONS AND POLICIES IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE TALKS APPEARED TO HAVE PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND NORMALLY AND DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONCERNS. THUS WHILE THE GOTT CONCERN OVER THE VENEZUELAN "THREAT TO THE CARIBBEN" MAY, IN FACT, BEREAL, IT HAS NOT PRECLUDED ATTEMPT BY TRINIDAD TO RESOLVE PRACTICAL BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH ITS LATIN NEIGHBOR
ASKEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 26 NOV 1975
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